

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03

SCCT-02 /148 W

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R 271010Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5486

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJ: GOE PRESS ON SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ME

TEL AVIV FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 27 CAIRO PRESS GENERALLY REFLECTS
OPTIMISM ABOUT SECRETARY'S VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY AHRAH SETS TONE OF PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'
FOURTH VISIT TO ME. MAIN ARTICLE REPORTS THAT SECRETARY'S TRIP
TO DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV WILL BE CONCERNED WITH DISENGAGEMENT
ISSUE, AND THAT HIS VISIT TO EGYPT WILL BE PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS
FOURTHCOMING STAGE OF GENEVA CONVERENCE. THIRD LEAD SENTENCE OF
ARICLE STATES THAT "KISSINGER'S FOURT TOUR TO ME IS ACCOMPAINED
BY A WAVE OF OPTIMISM WHICH PREVAILS IN WORLD CAPITALS
ABOUT THE INCREASING POSSIBILITIES OF SUCCESS IN HIS
MISSION ON THE GOLAN (SIC),WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE
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CHARGE OF THE US INTERESTS SECTION INDAMASCUS HAS STATED

THAT THE US CANNOT ACCEPT PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR'S RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT THE GOLAN'S FATE." ACCORDING TO AHRAH'S ARTICLE, BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS QUOTE USINT DAMASCUS HEAD SCOTES AS SAYING THAT MRS. MEIR'S REMARKS HAVE CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT AND HAVE PROVOKED WIDESPREAD REACTION IN THE AREA, "BUT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT WE HAVE DIFFERED WITH THE ISRAELI POSITON". SCOTES IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SYAING THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW IF IT WANTS PEACE AND DESIRES TO BECOME A PART OF THE ME; AND THAT "THE PALESTINIANS MUST ACCEPT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW STATE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN AND IN THE GAZA STRIP, BECAUSE THEIR REJECTION OF THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CREATE DIFFICULTIES REGARDING ANY ME PEACE SETTLEMWNT."

3. AHRAH ALSO CONTAINS LONG ARTICLE BY HAMII FAUD ABOUT FAHMY AND SAQQAF'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, DESCRIBING "CRITICAL" ATMOSPHERE IN US ON ARRIVAL OF BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND REPORTING ON INTENSE SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY, SAQQAF, FAHMY, AND SYRIAN CHARGE QABBANI WHICH RESULTED IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO SEND SECRETARY ON PRESENT ME TOUR. FAUD'S ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT IN WASHINGTON SECRETARY DESCRIBED SADAT AS "ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS HE HAS EVER MET" AND A MAN WHO HAS CLEARED THE WAY FOR PEACE IN THE ME. MOST IMPORTANT, SAYS FAUD, IS SECRETARY'S ASSERTION THAT PRESENT US POSITION IS NOT TACTICAL BUT REPRESENTS A GENUINE DESIRE ON PART OF US TO ACHIEVE A ME PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE AND SECURITY.

4. OTHER CAIRO PAPERS CARRY SOMEWHAT SHORTER REPORTS, BUT EMPHASIZE AHRAH'S MAIN POINTS THAT SECRETARY WILL DISCUSS WITH SADAT QUESTION OF FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETINGS, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF FULL RESUMPTION OF US/EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: CAIRO PAPERS APPEAR TO HAVE SELECTED NEWS ITEMS AND REPORTS REFLECTING FAVORABLY ON SECRETARY AND CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN OBTAINING ISRAELI/SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT, GIVING GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC PICTURE IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL IN EGYPT.
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